

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 05407 191426Z

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ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05 /025 W

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R 182203Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1993

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FOR COMMERCE AND OPIC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT: IMCAM PACKETS AND COHDEFOR: OPIC

REF: STATE 297094

1. INFORMATION PACKETS FORWARDED FROM SAN PEDRO TO TEGUCIGALPA
FINALLY LOCATED IN AIRLINE OFFICE AND WILL BE FORWARDED TO OPIC
THIS WEEK. PERSONAL ITEMS BELONGING TO LEDGERWOOD REPORTEDLY NOT
LOCATED BY HOTEL SULA.

2. AS STATED IN EMBASSY TELCON WITH DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
COHDEFOR IS NOT PREPARED TO TALK DETAILS WITH ANY POTENTIAL PAR-
TICIPANTS IN GOH PULP AND PAPER PROJECT. SOLE PURPOSE OF EMBASSY-
INITIATED INQUIRY CONCERNING INTEREST OF U.S. COMPANIES WAS TO
SCOTCH COHDEFOR DIRECTOR'S BELIEF THAT ANYTHING LESS THAN 51
PERCENT OWNERSHIP WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE FOR A U.S. PARTICIPANT.
ON BASIS OF COMMERCE SUPPLIED INFORMATION, COHDEFOR DIRECTOR
REYES WAS ADVISED U.S. COMPANIES COULD BE INTERESTED IN MINORITY
PARTICIPATION. YESTERDAY REYES RECONFIRMED TO ECON OFF HIS
INABILITY TO DISCUSS FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT AT THIS
TIME. HE LIKEWISE RECONFIRMED HIS INTENTION TO SPEAK WITH
INTERESTED U.S. COMPANIES WHEN GOVERNMENT PLANNING HAS REACHED
"SUITABLE" STAGE. EMBASSY THEREFORE UNABLE TO ADVISE DEPARTMEN
OF COMMERCE OR OPIC THAT PULP AND PAPER PROJECT PARTICIPATION
BY U.S. COMPANIES IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION, ESPECIALLY SINCE
REYES HAS SPECIFICALLY EXPRESSED DISINTEREST IN SEEING

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COMPANIES ON THIS SUBJECT AT PRESENT TIME. AS FOR WHEN THE

GOVERNMENT WILL BE PREPARED, REYES THINKS IN TERMS OF MID TO LATE JANUARY, BUT WE NOTE THAT DELAYS HAVE BEEN FREQUENT IN THE PAST.

COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT AN AGGRESSIVE U.S. COMPANY WITH STRONG INTEREST IN PROJECT COULD EASILY ACCEPT THE CAVEATS IN THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH AND STILL DO MAJOR BACKGROUND AND PREPARATORY WORK IN HONDURAS TOWARD POSITIONING ITSELF TO BE RESPONSIVE TO AN INVESTMENT OR SALE OPPORTUNITY. SUCH GROUNDWORK COULD PROVE TO BE IMPORTANT TO ESTABLISH USEFUL TECHNICAL DATA AND LOCAL CONTACTS. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE ITS FULLEST SUPPORT TO ANY U.S. COMPANY WISHING TO MAKE SUCH A PRELIMINARY RECONNAISSANCE.

SANCHEZ

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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